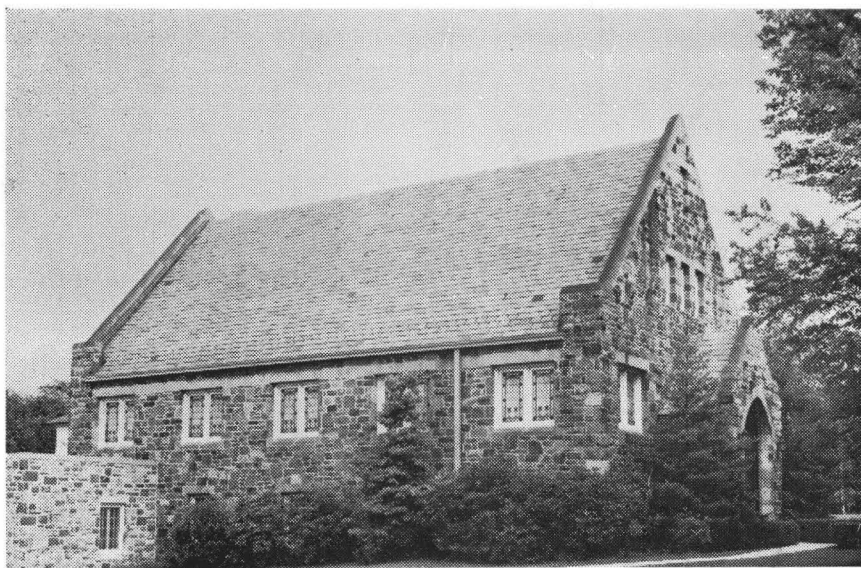
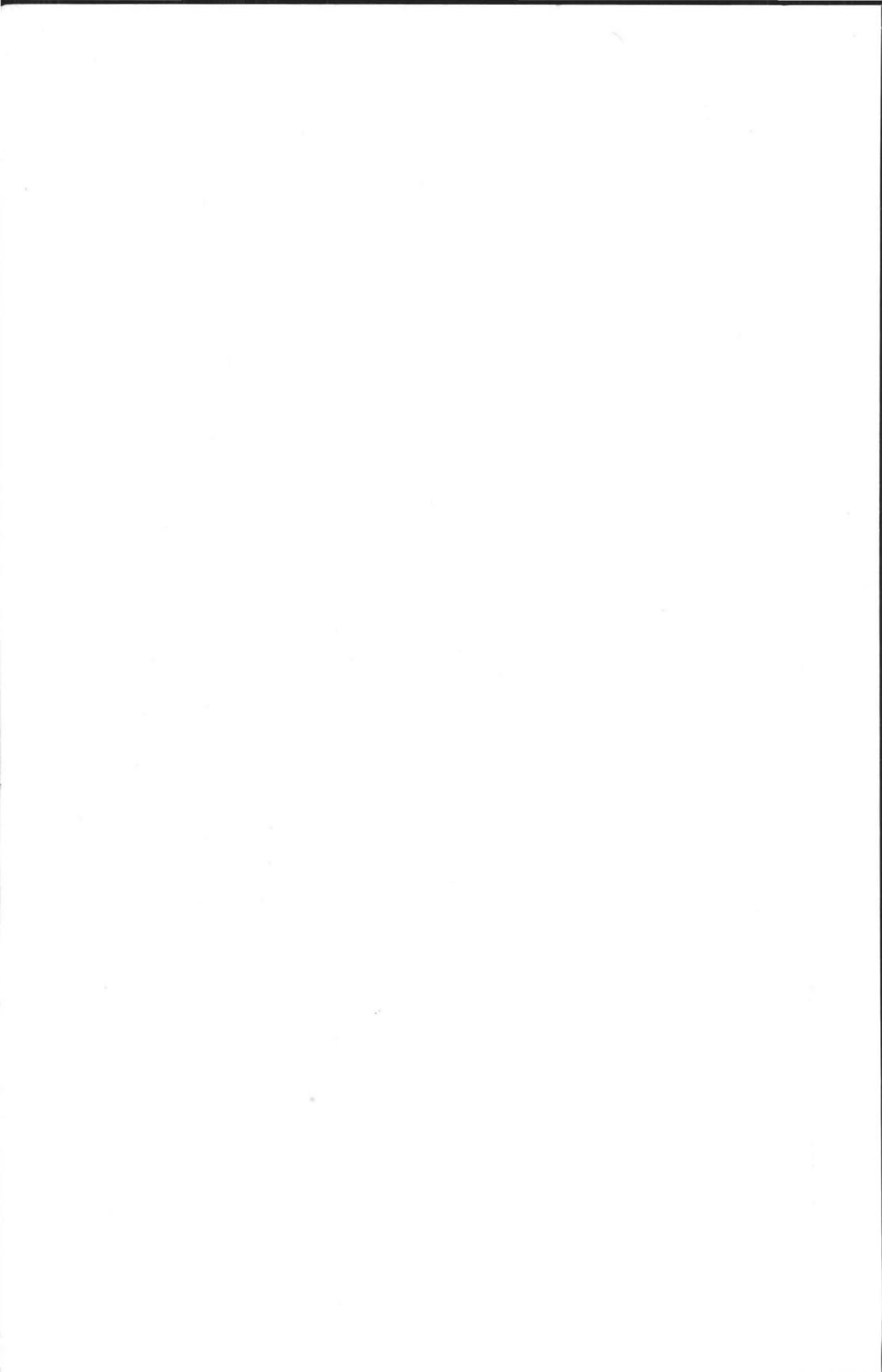


ELDERSLIE METHODIST CHURCH



1914 — 1964



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1914—1964**

**By
CARL N. EVERSTINE**

**ELDERSLIE METHODIST CHURCH
Pimlico Road at Ken Oak Road
Baltimore 9, Maryland**

Elderslie Methodist Church

1914 — 1964

Elderslie Methodist Church was officially organized on March 1, 1914, beginning then its first half century of devoted and progressive service to the Mt. Washington community and to the extension of Christianity.

The suburb of Mt. Washington—frequently and unofficially known as Washington Heights—then was a small unincorporated community of Baltimore County, some two miles or more outside the then corporate boundaries of Baltimore City, in the vicinity of Forty-first Street and Cold Spring Lane. Insofar as there were “official” boundaries of the little community, the village was described as lying between Green Spring Avenue and the Northern Central Railroad. A local law of Baltimore County, last amended by Chapter 420 of the Acts of 1914, authorized the Board of County Commissioners of Baltimore County to levy up to twenty cents on the tax rate for improvements to roads and sidewalks and for sanitary measures, drainage, and other improvements “within the limits of the Village of Mt. Washington.”

Plans for the new congregation had been underway for months prior to its official organization, and they included the use of the present site of the Church. The Baltimore City Missionary and Church Extension Society already owned the tract at the northeast corner of Pimlico Road and Elderslie Avenue (the latter becoming later part of Ken Oak Road).

First definite plans for the new Methodist Church—and for many years, of course, it was a Methodist Episcopal Church—were made in the spring of 1913, in a meeting at the home of Edward K. Gernand, at the southwest corner of Pimlico Road and Linwood Avenue, which also was to be re-

named as part of Ken Oak Road. Dr. Charles W. Baldwin, Superintendent of the Church Extension Society, attended this meeting, together with Dr. Edward Hayes, District Superintendent.

At the same meeting, and as a happy omen for the future, a Ladies' Aid Committee was formed. A few weeks later, in June of 1913, it became the Ladies' Aid Society.

The group of leaders who met in the Gernand home formed a Sunday School in the fall of 1913. For a meeting place they rented the Boy Scout Lodge, a fine stone building to the north of the intersection of the narrow and winding dirt roads which then were Kelly Avenue and Cross Country Boulevard. The Sunday School held regular sessions at two o'clock every Sunday afternoon during the fall and winter of 1913 - 1914, followed by church services at four o'clock. Guest ministers offered their assistance at these services; the Church was becoming a community institution even before officially organized.

Dr. Edward Hayes, the District Superintendent, gave official status to the new Church at a meeting in the Boy Scout building on March 1, 1914. It was a stormy afternoon, but one of the charter members has testified to "the exhilaration of our new undertaking as we banded together to form the Elderslie Church."

Twenty-five persons comprised the list of charter members, surely an honored group in any account of Elderslie Church:

Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Alden	Mr. and Mrs. Samuel House
Capt. and Mrs. William Almy	Miss Annie Jackson
Mr. Raymond Almy	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kemper
Mrs. Mary E. Coates	Mrs. Emma S. Lehmann
Miss Ella Coates	Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Robosson
Miss Lettie Coates	Mrs. Ona J. Stewart
Mrs. Frances Gernand	Mr. and Mrs. Walker Sutton
Mrs. W. C. Hanway	Miss Alice Wagner
Mrs. George Haskell	Miss Sue Wagner
	Miss Bessie Wright

At the same time, Mr. Everett Almy and Mr. Leslie Lehmann were accepted as probationary members. Miss Bessie Wright was shortly to become Mrs. Raymond Almy, and later members of the congregation will recognize others among the charter group who went on to give years of devoted service to Elderslie Church.

"The first meeting of the Official Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church to be erected at Pimlico Road and Elderslie Avenue, Mt. Washington, was called at the house of Claude S. Gernand, Pimlico Road and Linwood Avenue, Mt. Washington, on the evening of Tuesday, March 10, 1914." Thus begins the long record of the Official Board of Elderslie Church and the account of the tribulations, achievements, and (occasionally) differences of opinion of its members.

The Church was as yet unnamed, and the very first order of business after the Official Board organized on March 10, 1914, was to give it a name. "A communication from the Ladies' Aid Society was received and read," the Minutes of the Board relate, "stating that the Society had unanimously decided that Elderslie M. E. Church would be a fitting name for the new Church. After discussion by the members of the Board, motion was made in due form, and by unanimous vote it was decided that the said name should be adopted."

The Ladies' Aid Society had been hard at work for the better part of a year at the time of this first meeting of the Official Board. The Ladies' Aid Committee which was set up early in the spring of 1913 was composed of Mrs. L. R. Alden, Chairman, Mrs. W. C. Almy, Miss Bessie Wright, Miss Fannie Wright, and Mrs. E. K. Gernand; and by June of that year the Committee had expanded into the Ladies' Aid Society.

The first meeting of the Society organized with Mrs. Alden as President. Dues were set at ten cents monthly. At the second meeting, on August 12, 1913, the Treasurer reported cash

receipts of \$1.75, and the announced enrollment of two honorary male members (one of whom was Dr. Hayes) quickly swelled the coffers to \$3.75. At this meeting, also, a fine old Methodist custom was confirmed at the conclusion of the business session, when the hostess entertained the group "most pleasantly."

At the September meeting in 1913 the Treasurer of the Society reported total receipts of \$4.05, but two items of the business gave promise of better things to come. First, at each meeting the members after completing their business "would spend the rest of the afternoon sewing, and the articles thus made would be used to fill a basket at a stated time, and sent about the neighborhood for sale, for the benefit of the Society's work." Also, they determined upon a sale during the following week, for the "sale of cake, candy, aprons, etc." At the October meeting, understandably, the treasury contained some sixty dollars.

A form of Constitution and By-Laws for the Ladies' Aid Society was adopted at its meeting on November 11, 1913, stating as the chief object of the Society "to assist in the maintenance of the spiritual and financial interests of the Church."

It was at the meeting of the Ladies' Society on March 10, 1914, that they voted upon a name for the Church. Of the fifteen members present, fourteen voted for "Elderslie," and one voted for "Faith." The vote was thereupon made unanimous, and later that day it was communicated to the first meeting of the Official Board.

That group also had to cope with financial problems. At its first meeting, the members present made pledges for the coming year; and by the end of the second meeting on March 31, 1914, it was reported that a canvass throughout the community had given pledges to the Church amounting to \$1,007.

Another problem facing the first Official Board was that of obtaining a minister for the Church. A Committee on Pulpit Supply was appointed, and discussions were held with Dr. Hayes as to the possibilities for the new Church. One letter to Dr. Hayes offered an annual salary of one thousand dollars and stated "in vigorous terms" that Elderslie Church needed a young and energetic minister for this first year.

The need for a pastor was solved as of July 1, 1914. The first minister was the Rev. Lewis A. Thirlkeld.

The final and most pressing of the early problems was that of acquiring a site for the new Church and getting started upon the construction. At the meeting of the Official Board on July 6, 1914, and also at the Quarterly Conference several weeks later, on September 21, it was determined to ascertain upon what terms the congregation might obtain the lot at Elderslie Avenue and Pimlico Road.

About the middle of November the congregation was informed that the Church Extension Society would give the lot to Elderslie Church, free of all encumbrances, and that other assistance would be given as required, to the extent of a loan of five thousand dollars. In return, the Church was to show a subscription of five thousand dollars toward the cost of the new structure. The task of getting these subscriptions took much of the time and energies of members of the Church during ensuing months.

On December 30, 1914, the congregation adopted Articles of Incorporation, in the usual form under State law for the formation of religious corporations. These papers were recorded in the Baltimore County Court House in Towson on February 1, 1915.

With all the plans during 1914 and on into 1915 for constructing a Church building and creating a permanent organization, the simple task of keeping the group alive and func-

tioning from day to day often was of major proportions. Money—the need for it and the constant lack of it—was the problem. Despite the modest salary paid to the minister, his account often had a deficiency, and never was there enough in the operating treasury to make anyone feel much assurance about the future. Over a period of several months in mid-1915, for example, the Treasurer's report at meetings of the Official Board, for the account "Church expenses and ministerial support," showed figures of \$52.63, \$22.67, \$17.90, \$10.65, and, to complete the cycle, "blank."

These financial difficulties were the constant subject of the Official Board, and more than once special collections were made in an effort to keep the pastor's salary current. In final desperation, at the meeting at which the account for ministerial support was reported to be "blank," the Board sent letters both to the Ladies' Aid Society and the Sunday School Board, asking each to contribute fifty dollars toward the deficit in operating expenses.

The devoted and indefatigable members of the early Ladies' Aid Society were the one bright spot in the finances of these first years. They had set themselves a goal of earning one thousand dollars as an initial payment on the new Church. They worked long and hard and moved steadily toward the goal, and only with the utmost efforts could they be persuaded to divert any of this capital fund to the operating expenses of the Church.

The Minutes of the Society list an amazing variety of cake sales, bazaars, Christmas sales, strawberry festivals, quilts, musicales, porch sales, dramatic entertainments, lawn fetes (to one of which a graphophone was lent), parcel post sales, etc., etc. By the time of the meeting at which they received the request from the Official Board for fifty dollars toward current expenses, on October 12, 1915, their Treasurer reported a balance of \$837.65. Two votes were taken by the Society on

this request; the first was a firm "No," but immediately by the second vote the group offered to give an entertainment with the assistance of the Official Board in order to raise the money.

By the late summer of 1915, plans for the new Chapel (as the Church building was always referred to in those early days) were showing promise. The deed for the land was delivered to the Trustees of the Church in September of that year. For months earlier they had been studying plans and consulting with George C. Haskell, the architect, with the general goal of a building with steam heat to cost not more than nine thousand dollars. Also, the Minutes of the Board of Trustees during 1915 are filled with reports of the constant drive for funds for the new Chapel.

Initial plans for the building had to be revised when it became apparent that the cost would exceed nine thousand dollars. The Board of Trustees received six bids at its meeting on June 25, 1915, ranging from a low of \$10,635 to a high of \$13,061. The remainder of the summer was taken up with these problems of specifications and bids.

These matters finally were resolved, and ground was broken for the Chapel on Sunday, October 31, 1915. The Quarterly Conference that fall put all active supervision of the project in the hands of a special building committee of the Board of Trustees. The work progressed during the winter and into the spring of 1916. Periodic payments were made to the contractor, the first of which was the one thousand dollars collected by the Ladies' Aid Society; and at the Society's meeting on January 11, 1916, it was noted that the payment reduced its bank balance to \$12.80.

As finally settled, the contract was made with Andrew Knell, Jr., for \$8,433. It covered a building 36 feet x 62 feet, complete with the exception of fixtures and the heating plant. The Church had arranged for a loan from the German Bank, not in excess of five thousand dollars.

As the work progressed, there were some differences of opinion between the building committee and the contractor, leading up to what was described as "a sensational article" in some of the Baltimore papers on June 22, 1916. On the previous day, the committee met with the contractor to inspect and accept the Chapel before making final payment on the contract. As described in the Minutes of the following Quarterly Conference, the Minister called the contractor's attention to a defect in the kitchen wall, whereupon the latter "violently assaulted" the Minister.

The new Chapel was dedicated on July 2, 1916, and the congregation at once made full use of its facilities. There was delay in installing the heating plant, so that temporary arrangements for heat were necessary during the fall of 1916.

With building problems finally solved, Elderslie Church in 1917 and 1918 could look with more confidence to the future. It still was far from an affluent congregation; the financial statement for the conference year ending in April, 1918, showed total receipts of \$1,471.76; and disbursements were only slightly less, with a balance on hand carried forward in the amount of \$9.35.

Yet the Church was indeed growing. Conference Minutes in 1915 had shown its membership as 43 persons, and these figures were to climb steadily to 104 in 1920, 155 in 1925, and 196 in 1930. Over the same period, membership in the Sunday School rose from 88 in 1915, 122 in 1920, 142 in 1925, and 181 in 1930. Another practical index to better times was shown by the salary paid to the Pastor. From the modest figure of \$1,000 in 1915, it moved upward to \$1,800 in 1920 and on to \$2,660 in 1925. All of this showed also in the annual budget, which went from some fifteen hundred dollars in 1918 to a proposed \$6,410 in the spring of 1925.

The 1920's were a time for consolidation. The Minutes of the Official Board show the necessary but unsensational

details of housekeeping: insurance, repairs to the building, an organist, care of the lawn, a car for the Minister, use of the organ, repairs to the parsonage, a mimeograph machine. The Ladies' Aid Society continued its contributions toward operating expenses and the purchase and maintenance of equipment, with hardly a month elapsing without some such project being discussed.

Near the end of the 'twenties there was considerable thought given to a new name for the Church. Elderslie Avenue had become Ken Oak Road, and the geographical name was thought no longer suitable. On March 19, 1929, the Ladies' Aid Society proposed to the Official Board that the Church take the new name of "Bethany." The Official Board discussed the matter on June 12, 1929, but took no action.

The Church moved into the 1930's with continuing progress, though added financial problems came with "the depression." The annual budget, which had been \$6,410 in 1925, dropped to \$5,224 in the spring of 1934 and stayed close to that figure for a number of years. As late as 1939 the annual budget was \$5,120. Yet Church membership continued to rise, going from 196 in 1930 to 230 in 1935, 306 in 1940, 324 in 1945, and 393 in 1950. The Sunday School membership also went up, though at a slower pace; it increased from 181 in 1930 to 192 in 1935, 192 in 1940, 224 in 1945, and 201 in 1950.

The persistent problems of management and control went on from year to year during the 1930's and 1940's: trees, lawn mower, vestments for the choir, water in the basement of the parsonage, hymnals, a stained glass window broken by boys playing baseball, repairs to the roof of the parsonage, bulletin board, rain spouts, painting, impounding of funds during the "bank holiday" of 1933. In 1934 the Boy Scouts were allowed the use of the building, and in 1937 the Girl Scouts received

the same privilege. The coal furnace was replaced by an oil burner in 1938. Plans were discussed either for an entirely new Church structure or for some enlargement of the present building, until on February 18, 1941, the Official Board determined to get architects' plans for an addition. These plans necessarily had to be postponed during World War II, and the War period was marked by serious discussions of possibilities for "a just and lasting peace."

There was a basic change in the organization and purpose of the ladies' organizations on September 10, 1940. Earlier, on October 19, 1938, the Ladies' Aid Society had changed its name to the Woman's Guild, the new name to be effective immediately "if there is no constitutional bar or objection by the Church Board." Nationally, there were also the Women's Foreign Missionary Society and a Women's Home Missionary Society. In 1940, nationally and locally, all were merged into the Woman's Society for Christian Service. The final meeting of the Woman's Guild was held on September 10 that year, when it adjourned "to meet immediately as the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Methodist Church." Its broad purposes have been to "unite all the women of the Church in Christian living and service; help develop and support Christian work among women and children around the world; develop the spiritual life; study the needs of the world; take part in such service activities as will strengthen the local church, improve civic, community, and world conditions."

These purposes were explained at the meeting on September 10, 1940, and officers were elected. The Minutes of the meeting then concluded: "Thus ends an historic action in the life of Elderslie Methodist Church, the Charter Meeting of the Woman's Society of Christian Service. May God's blessing rest upon the work."

The year 1940 also saw the unification of the three Methodist churches, all united into the Methodist Church.

The Methodist Men's organization, which originated in February, 1929, as the Baraca Class, became the Men's Brotherhood during the 1930's. In the early 'fifties it became the Methodist Men. It has been a steady and vital group, meeting monthly to discuss a wide variety of religious, community, national, and international problems.

The Church expansion program which was postponed during World War II did not deter building and financial plans for some kind of enlarged structure. An active campaign was begun in 1944, and by 1948 the Church had accumulated a building fund of more than ten thousand dollars. Plans at the time were for a new and considerably larger building than the existing Church, extending southward across the Church property toward Ken Oak Road. An architect's drawing of the proposal showed the existing building anchored into the project as the northern end of the entire structure, with the main entrance in the new portion. A total expenditure of some twenty-five thousand dollars would have been required, and in 1948 the Church planned to borrow fifteen thousand dollars to supplement the ten thousand in the building fund.

Ultimately the building plans crystallized into a ground addition across the back of the existing church. Building costs were rising, and a survey of the developing pattern of the community caused Church leaders to doubt the wisdom of a greatly enlarged Church structure. Even this modest addition provided helpful facilities. The existing building had ended at the rear of the stage on the lower floor, so that the addition provided much needed Sunday School rooms and kitchen space.

The new parsonage on Brambleton Road was purchased during the latter 1940's. It was a fine improvement over the old parsonage on Whitney Avenue, which had been erected just after World War I. In the early 1950's there were extensive improvements in the Church auditorium, and in 1953 the organ chimes were added. With all these expenditures, the

payment of all capital indebtedness was celebrated with a "mortgage burning" in late 1952.

Problems of post-war inflation made quick changes in the finances of Elderslie Church. As late as 1943 the annual budget of the church was but \$5,846. The 1948-1949 budget rose to \$9,033, and by 1951-1952 it was up to \$10,314. In 1958-1959 it had increased to \$14,094, and the Church went into its fiftieth anniversary year with an annual budget of \$15,661 for 1963-1964.

This current budget, as projected by the Official Board, lists these several subtotals:

Ministerial support -----	\$ 6,610.
Music program -----	1,660.
General expenses -----	4,945.
Benevolences -----	2,446.
	\$15,661.

The economic well-being of the Church also was reflected in the values of its main capital assets. The original Church structure, completed in 1916 at a cost of ten thousand dollars, had become part of a valuation (made in 1963) of the Church and its furnishings and equipment, for a total of \$110,000. To this was added a valuation of the parsonage at \$23,500. These figures would have seemed astronomical to the founders of fifty years ago, who frequently reported balances in the Church treasury of less than fifty dollars.

In 1959 and 1960 there was discussion of another possibility for expansion of the Church's activities which could have had wide influence in the Mt. Washington community. It concerned a proposed consolidation of Elderslie Church with Mt. Washington Methodist Church. The subject was discussed in a number of meetings of the Official Board of Elderslie Church

and of committees representing the two churches, but ultimately the talks were discontinued.

Elderslie Methodist Church in early 1964 completed fifty years of effective service devoted to the spiritual advance and social welfare of its congregation and of the Christian Church, in the Mt. Washington community, the State and Nation, and the worldwide community of nations and peoples. Its progress has been steady and persistent throughout that half century. Looking forward from the work and trials of those fifty years—although problems are never “settled” in a Methodist Church!—Elderslie Church faces the future with hope and confidence that it will take a worthy part in mankind’s long quest for peace, happiness, and spiritual fulfillment.



MINISTERS

Elderslie Methodist Church

1914-1917	Lewis A. Thirlkeld
1917-1918	C. E. Smith
1918-1919	Charles D. Sapp
1919-1924	Edwin T. Mowbray
1924-1925	Benjamin F. DeVries
1925-1931	B. Irvin McGowan
1931-1933	E. P. Fellenbaum
1933-1939	Clarkson R. Banes
1939-1941	Daniel L. Ennis
1941-1942	Jacob H. Snyder
1942-1949	Edwin A. Ross
1949-1951	Eugene R. Ackerman
1951-1954	Bernard I. Barnes
1954-1957	Floyd L. Morrison
1957-1960	Melvin D. Hughson
1960-	Charles L. Felty

CHURCH DIRECTORY, 1964

MINISTRY

Pastor-----CHARLES L. FELTY
Area Bishop-----JOHN WESLEY LORD
District Superintendent-----WILLIAM E. FIRTH



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1966	1965	1964
Arthur W. Lockner	Raymond R. Almy	Robert S. Goe
Paul O. Massicot, Sr.	Franklin F. Mack	Fred J. Kreiling
Archie T. Satterfield	J. Robert Moore, Jr.	Herbert W. Wagner, Jr.



ELECTIVE STEWARDS

1966	1965	1964
Fred E. Heavel	Mrs. Henry J. Bohaska	Paul J. Booth
Dwight P. Jacobus	John H. Ernst *	Mrs. John J. Burns
Mrs. Fred J. Kreiling	Mrs. Aubrey G. Old	William Jones
Mrs. Harold W. Meineke	George W. Wanner, Jr.	Mrs. Charles A. Lapointe
Donald B. Elliott	George S. Krom	Robert J. Lockner



HONORARY STEWARDS

William H. Carpenter	William H. Fisher	Anton Hasenkamp
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* Deceased.

LOCAL CHURCH STAFF

Church Lay Leader.....	Alan C. Sutton
District Stewards.....	Franklin F. Mack Raymond R. Almy
Lay Members, Annual Conference.....	Walter J. Lippy Mrs. Roy N. Downs
Chairman, Official Board.....	Robert D. Lippy
Chairman, Board of Trustees.....	Archie T. Satterfield
Lay Speaker.....	Herbert W. Wagner, Jr.
Organist—Director of Music.....	Mrs. Bessie Hann Lippy
President, Woman's Society of Christian Service.....	Mrs. Arthur W. Lockner
President, Methodist Men.....	Arthur W. Lockner
Chairman, Commission on Membership and Evangelism.....	Archie T. Satterfield
Chairman, Commission on Education.....	Mrs. Gladys Gantz
Chairman, Commission on Missions.....	Mrs. Carl N. Everstine
Chairman, Commission on Stewardship and Finance.....	Fred J. Kreiling
Chairman, Commission on Christian Social Concerns.....	Mrs. J. Hamilton Jarboe
Chairman, Commission on Worship.....	Herbert W. Wagner, Jr.
Church School Superintendent.....	Mrs. Robert D. Lippy
Communion Stewards.....	Mrs. William E. Grueninger Mrs. Donald S. Wagner
Hospitals and Homes Steward.....	Mrs. Roy N. Downs
Recording Steward.....	Alan C. Sutton
Church Treasurers.....	Robert D. Lippy A. Thomas Satterfield
Financial Secretary.....	J. Hamilton Jarboe
Chairman, Committee on Pastoral Relations.....	Robert D. Lippy
Chairman, Committee on Lay Personnel.....	Arthur W. Lockner
Chairman, Committee on Records and History.....	Mrs. Amelia W. Sutton
Chairman, Committee on Audits.....	Robert S. Goe